



Irrigating sport fields



Watering nursery plants



Irrigating landscapes



Enhancing wetlands



Industrial processes



Watering golf courses

Reclaimed water

To protect Puget Sound and help meet our region's growing need for water for people, industry, farms and fish, King County continues to produce reclaimed water.

Over ten years of experience producing high-quality water for many uses

Reclaimed water is wastewater treated to such a high level that it can be used safely and effectively for many purposes that do not require drinking water. For many communities throughout the United States and the world, reclaimed water has become a reliable water source for many uses, such as irrigation and industry.

In King County, we've been using it for irrigating athletic fields, nurseries and landscapes, and we use over 250 million gallons for our own in-plant processes.

Reclaimed water offers many benefits

Using this valuable resource for irrigation or industry means we send less treated wastewater to Puget Sound, conserve more of our municipal water supplies and leave more water in our rivers and streams. A drought-proof source of water, reclaimed water gives us flexibility because it is always available even in the hottest, driest summers. King County residents place great value on natural resources, including clean water and salmon. Recycling water can be part of the solution to maintaining the quality of life people value here.



King County

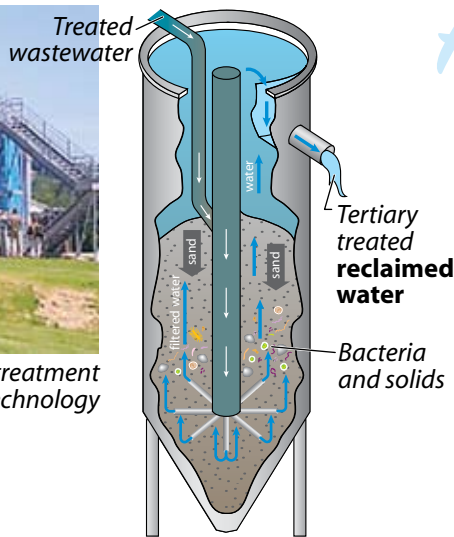
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks

Wastewater Treatment Division

Recovering water resources in King County



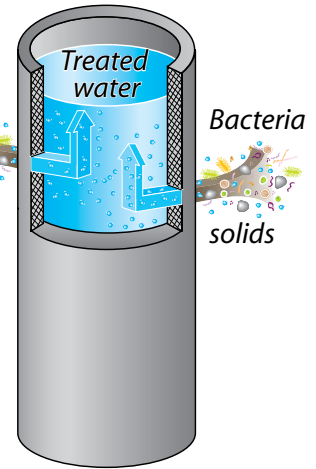
Sand filter treatment technology



At both the South and West Point treatment plants, a portion of the treated wastewater gets additional treatment through a sand filter. After final disinfection, the filtered water meets the state's Class A reclaimed water standards.



Advanced membrane bioreactor (MBR) treatment technology



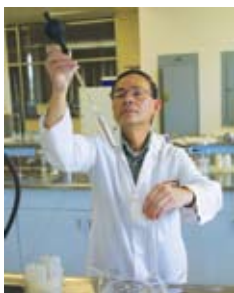
Individual MBR strand

The Brightwater and Carnation treatment plants (currently under construction) will use advanced membrane bioreactor (MBR) treatment technology. MBR technology uses sets of small pore filters to separate solids and bacteria from water molecules. With disinfection, all of the water treated through the MBRs at these plants will meet Class A reclaimed water standards. Carnation will recycle water to enhance a wetland. Brightwater will produce reclaimed water for a variety of irrigation and industrial customers.

Strict safety standards protect people and the environment



Purple pipes and signs identify reclaimed water use



Frequent water quality lab testing

King County's reclaimed water meets strict Class A standards set by the state departments of Ecology and Health.

Reclaimed water is highly filtered and disinfected and is tested often. It contains only trace amounts of some nutrients and dissolved chemicals. Although King County's reclaimed water is not drinking water, it is safe for human contact—even unintentional swallowing or exposure to open cuts.


Reclaimed water is distributed through a separate set of purple pipes which makes sure reclaimed water and drinking water supplies are never mixed. Purple is the nationally designated color for marking reclaimed water pipes, hoses, pumps, and other equipment.

King County invests in research and demonstration projects that support the safe and effective use of reclaimed water in our region.


King County has been recycling water since 1997


Existing treatment plants

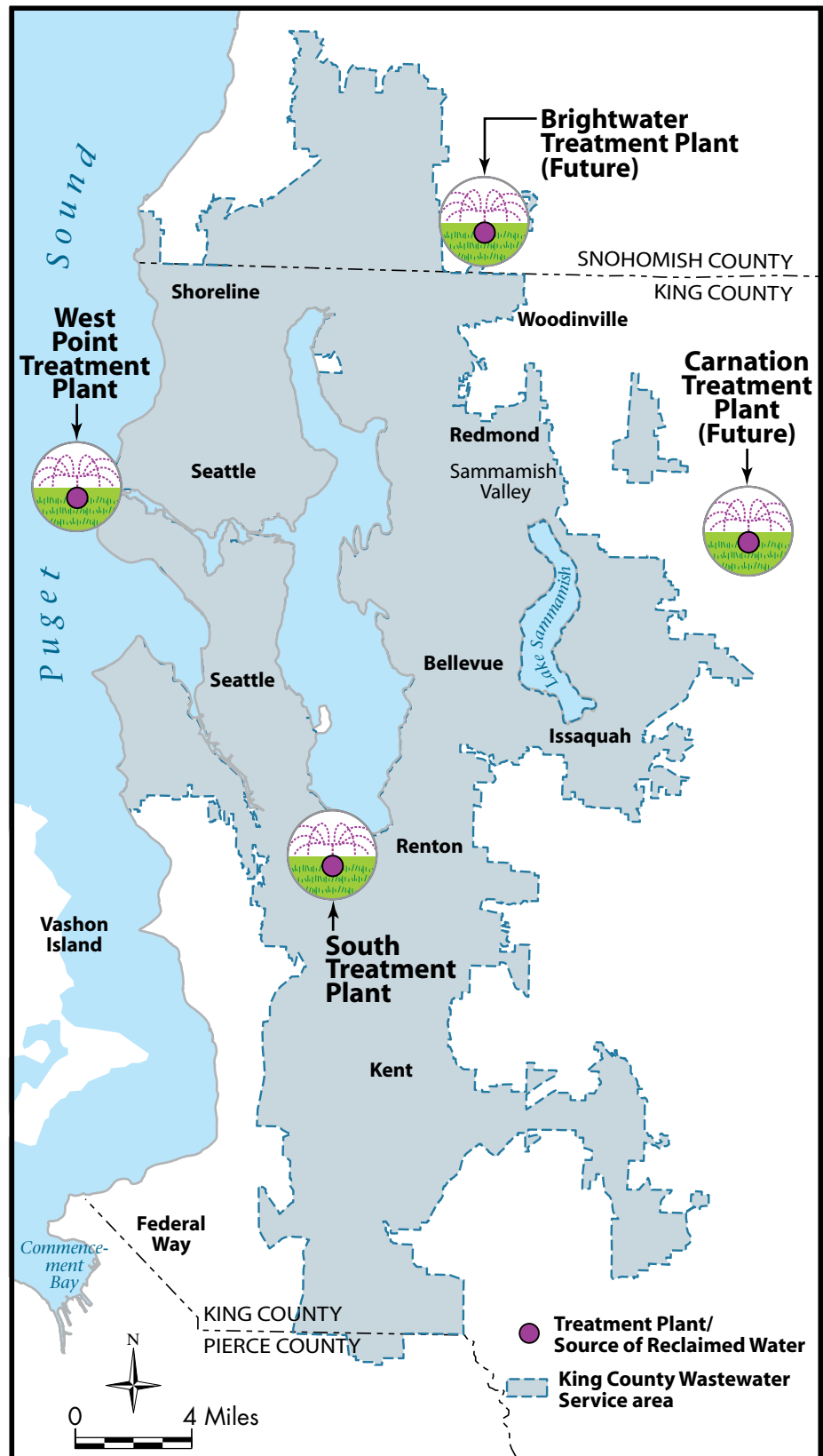
 **South Treatment Plant**, Renton – 71 million gallons a year are used for on-site processes and as an irrigation source for nearby sports fields at Fort Dent Park, a wetland plant nursery and habitat restoration efforts.

 **West Point Treatment Plant**, Seattle – 188 million gallons a year are used for on-site processes.

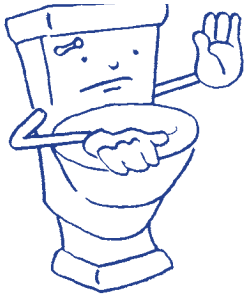
Treatment plants under construction

 **Brightwater Treatment Plant**, north of Woodinville – a reclaimed water pipe will bring reclaimed water to areas in north King County, south Snohomish County and the Sammamish Valley after 2011.

 **Carnation Treatment Plant**, Carnation – reclaimed water will be used for wetland enhancement at Chinook Bend Natural Area next to the Snoqualmie River in 2008.



King County treatment plants producing reclaimed water: present and future sites.



Don't use toilets and drains as trash cans

You can help protect your wastewater system and the quality of reclaimed water

Don't use toilets and drains as trash cans. Dispose of fats, oils, greases and fruit and vegetable stickers in the trash. Return medicines to your pharmacy or dispose of them in the trash. Return hazardous household wastes to a local collection site. Visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/community/oldstuff.htm> for more information.

Water conservation

You can help reduce demand on our fresh water resources. Conserving water at home and at work helps maintain a sustainable water supply. Turning off the faucet while brushing teeth and shaving are easy ways to save water everyday. For more information on water conservation, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/waterconservation/>.



Water saving faucets and shower heads are inexpensive ways to save water.

Our job for over 40 years is to protect our region's water resources



Lake Washington in the 1950s



Today Lake Washington is one of the cleanest urban lakes in the world

King County's clean water legacy began in the 1960s when we built a wastewater system that cleaned up a polluted Lake Washington. Our commitment to protecting our water resources continues as we find ways to use reclaimed water so that we can help preserve water in our lakes and streams.

For more information, check our Web site at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/reuse/> or call 206-296-8361.



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This information is available in alternative formats upon request by calling 206-296-8361 or Relay Service 711.

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